

# TAMMY Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin BALDWIN

## Madison Office

10 E. Doty St., Suite 405  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 258-9800



## Beloit Office

400 E. Grand Ave., Suite 402  
Beloit, WI 53511  
(608) 362-2800

## Washington, DC Office

1022 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2906

Official Business

[www.tammybaldwin.house.gov](http://www.tammybaldwin.house.gov)

# INSIDE: WINTER REPORT 2005

*Tammy Baldwin*

*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

## CONGRESSWOMAN TAMMY BALDWIN



### KEEP IN TOUCH

Each month, thousands of you write to express your thoughts and concerns, but mail delivery to the Washington, DC office is considerably slowed due to heightened security screening. Mail sent to the Madison or Beloit office can be processed more quickly. Email is now the most efficient way to communicate and you are encouraged to send mail directly via the website [tammybaldwin.house.gov](http://tammybaldwin.house.gov).

Promptly answering mail is a priority.

To those of you who've had letters delayed in the postal system, thank you for your patience.

I value your thoughts and opinions and urge you to continue to share them.

### REMEMBERING OUR TROOPS

During the holiday season, our thoughts often turn to American troops serving abroad. While mail from family members and loved ones to active duty service members is always encouraged, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages, or donations to service members deployed in combat areas unless you are a family member, loved one, or personal friend.

Mail addressed to "any service member" is no longer accepted because it can introduce hazardous substances into the mail system. Unsolicited mail, packages, and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, equipment, and mail from family and loved ones to our troops overseas.

The Department of Defense recommends some alternatives to mail and donation programs. Log on to the following web sites to send greeting cards, Thank You notes, and calling card donations to help troops stay in touch with loved ones:

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>

— although this is a Navy website, you can send an email message from here to any servicemember

<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil>

Despite the hubbub of Thanksgiving through New Year's activities, this is a good time to reflect on the past twelve months and look ahead to the next. As always, a year holds great joy, deep sorrow, and the vast range of emotions in between. The passage of time reminds us of lingering challenges and brings us new beginnings. This is a good time to share with you some of the experiences of the past year that were most meaningful and give me hope as we enter 2006.

2005 began on a high note as I took a seat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Health Subcommittee. The Committee's responsibilities are expansive and deal with questions as varied as "Who controls the Internet?" to "How can I heat my home not just this winter, but decades from now?" to "How do we protect the health of all Americans?" We can't solve every problem in a single day or a single year, but, in the House of Representatives, seniority and a seat on this important committee bring me greater opportunities to influence decision-making.



*Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congressional colleagues made a civil rights pilgrimage from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.*

In the spring of this year, I joined Rep. John Lewis and other colleagues on a pilgrimage to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama to remember the civil rights movement.

It was an amazing experience to sit in the very churches where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy once preached and

hear from leaders of the civil rights movement at the time. These were the men and women who amassed an army of fellow citizens committed to nonviolent action to join in and, as one leader put it, "fix what ain't right" in their communities.

Most remarkable was the faith that the people of Selma and Montgomery had that their actions would produce change . . . a faith that, if they used the tools of our democracy, they could effect change; even when it was their government that was denying them their rights.

In the summer, I joined with thousands of Wisconsinites at the State Capitol to memorialize former Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson. Here was a man with a seat in the U.S. Senate - the most powerful legislative body on earth - who realized that change was not going to start in the Senate . . . it must come from the people. And he devised a strategy, through Earth Day, to engage people in directly improving their environment and articulating to their leaders what must be done.

Listening to stories about the birth of Earth Day, it seemed clear that the struggle for health care for all, like the struggles for voting rights, gay rights, women's rights, and environmental protections will only succeed when we create a movement and amass an army of ordinary citizens to "fix what ain't right." The movement to

ensure health care for all, like all these earlier movements, involves citizenship training, organizing, advocacy and, most important, a faith that each of us can make a difference and a faith that our democracy provides us with those tools.

That notion was reinforced in the fall when I traveled to Detroit with other Members of Congress to attend the funeral of Rosa Parks. Through her simple, yet, eloquent refusal to give up her seat on a segregated bus, Rosa Parks altered the course of history and earned the title of "Founding Mother" of our country. Soon, a statue of her in the nation's Capitol will remind future generations of the difference one person can make.

Looking ahead to 2006, I hope to make a difference in the lives of the people I represent in Congress. Certainly, there are new opportunities to have greater influence there on matters such as health care, new technologies, trade, and the environment.

But as Gaylord Nelson proved, change will not come from the Congress; rather it must flow from the people to the government. There is only one Rosa Parks, but every one of us can take a stand in the coming year and play a role in "fixing what ain't right" in the world.

## AUTHORED LEGISLATION

**Health Security for All Americans Act** – Ensures comprehensive and affordable health care for all Americans by 2010 by funding state-administered grant programs.

**Working Parents Child Care Relief Act** – Allows working parents to receive child care assistance from employers up to \$6,000 free from any federal tax.

**Safe Communities and Safe Schools Mercury Reduction Act of 2005** – Helps fund projects to reduce the use and safely dispose of, or recycle, mercury. Eliminates mercury from schools.

**Increased Child Tax Credit** – Allows parents to claim the child tax credit for dependent children up to age 19, rather than age 17.

**Fairness for VA nurses** – Eliminates discriminatory policies to ensure that all VA nurses receive full retirement benefits.

**Dr. James Allen Disabled Veterans Equity Act** – For veterans who suffered vision loss in one eye as a result of their military service, provides additional compensation if they later suffer vision impairment in the other eye.

**Honoring Robert M. La Follette, Sr.** – Names the downtown Madison Post Office in honor of Wisconsin's notable Governor and Senator; signed into law in June 2005.



*Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin announced mercury reduction legislation near Lake Wingra in Madison.*

# WORKING AND WINNING FOR WISCONSIN

Bringing federal dollars home to Wisconsin has always been a high priority. In the past seven and a half years, I'm proud to have secured more than **\$100 million** in federal funds for important local projects. Here are some funded recently:

- **\$6.3 million** - Beloit Gateway project and other economic development
- **\$150,000** - Monroe Senior Center expansion
- **\$1.9 million** - Middleton and Dane County Airport improvements
- **\$8.2 million** - Small business high tech and bio-tech research and development to create jobs for the 21st century
- **\$7.8 million** - Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Waunakee, Madison and suburban Dane County bike and pedestrian paths.
- **\$550,000** - Sun Prairie, Middleton, Fitchburg and Columbus Police Departments technology upgrades
- **\$750,000** - Sun Prairie Water pollution control facility improvements
- **\$2.25 million** - Sand County Foundation to reduce farm runoff into Wisconsin's waterways
- **\$3.5 million** - Madison's new Central Park

- **\$400,000** - Wisconsin Procurement Institute to assist businesses in securing federal contracts
- **\$100,000** - Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence homicide prevention program
- **\$1.75 million** - Transport 2020 transit planning for Dane County's future
- **\$3.58 million** - Ice Age National Scenic Trail conservation and recreation
- **\$300,000** - Beloit Memorial Hospital equipment upgrades
- **\$150,000** - UW-Whitewater Center for Students with Disabilities
- **\$50,000** - UW-Baraboo/Sauk facilities upgrades



Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin began a 10-community listening tour by announcing federal funds for area bike trails.

## IN CONGRESS THIS YEAR...



Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin went to Bascom Hill to mark the 70th anniversary of Social Security and its ties to the UW.

2005 was a difficult year in Congress and for the nation. The war in Iraq and military action in Afghanistan took the lives of scores of American service members,

many from here in Wisconsin, and our hearts go out to their family and friends. Tornado victims in Wisconsin and hurricane victims in the Gulf states are still reeling from their losses and are in need of our continued support. Seniors are struggling to understand the complexities of the Medicare Part D plan. Everyone is struggling to cope with higher gas and oil prices that threaten the safety and well-being of many during these cold, winter months. Regrettably, tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans carried more weight in Congress than did caring for those struggling to keep up with or get ahead of their monthly bills.

I've been working on a wide variety of issues, and have sponsored legislation (see box) in a number of areas, including health care for all, tax fairness for working families, improved veterans benefits, education and environmental protection.

### Here's a brief run down of significant Congressional activity this year:

**Iraq:** We have now lost more than 2,100 American lives in Iraq and spent more than \$250 billion there. American troops have become a target of the insurgency and recent polls say 80% of Iraqis want U.S. forces out of Iraq. In March 2003, before the war began, I wrote to the President with 22 of my colleagues to ask him to specifically define our objectives and to provide an exit strategy. We asked the President a number of questions including: "Under what circumstances

will our military occupation of (and financial commitment to) Iraq end? And how will we know when these circumstances are present." We never received an answer to these questions and neither have the American people. Our troops and their families have made great sacrifices in this effort. It is time to bring our troops home as expeditiously as possible.

**Tax Cuts:** In spite of a record breaking national debt, Congress pushed through even more special tax breaks for the wealthiest, paying for them with cuts to health care for children and the elderly, student loans, child support enforcement, and food stamps for those who need them. This policy does not reflect the values of the Wisconsinites I represent. I strongly opposed the cuts in health care and other vital programs.

**Energy Policy:** Congress passed two major energy bills this year. Unfortunately, the beneficiaries of this legislation were the large oil companies, not American consumers. On the House Energy & Commerce Committee, I am actively involved in promoting a sound energy policy, an "Apollo Project"—similar to President Kennedy's commitment to reach the moon in 10 years—to achieve energy independence through the development of new, alternative energy sources.

**Social Security:** Social Security is regularly re-evaluated to confront long term financial challenges. We know that with relatively small changes, Social Security can be preserved and protected for generations to come. This year an attempt was made to substantially alter the Social Security program by diverting some of its funds to private accounts. Public reaction was loudly and clearly in support of the current Social Security system and efforts to privatize the program now appear to have failed.

**Transportation:** This year, Congress reauthorized our nation's transportation program to address needs through 2009. I advocated for a sound transportation program and was pleased to secure funding for a number of important Wisconsin projects in this legislation.



# CONSTITUENT SURVEY JANUARY 2006

## PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL TO:

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin,  
10 E. Doty St., Suite 405, Madison, WI 53703

The following statement best expresses my thoughts on the Iraq war:

- ☐ U.S. troops should be brought home now.
- ☐ The President should set out a clear plan to bring the troops home as soon as possible.
- ☐ U.S. troops should stay indefinitely.
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

A woman's right to choose to have an abortion, under Roe v. Wade, should be protected.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Future "free trade" agreements must include adequate protections for American workers and the environment.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No Opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. corporations should pay income taxes.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporations that move their headquarters out of the country to avoid paying U.S. taxes should be denied federal government contracts.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

## (OPTIONAL)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Yes, please send me periodic email updates

All Americans should be guaranteed quality health care.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Stem cell research into cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes and spinal cord injuries should be federally funded.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

The greatest challenge facing our nation today is:

- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Jobs
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Taxes
- ☐ Iraq War
- ☐ Terrorism
- ☐ Integrity in Government
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

The greatest challenge facing my family today is:

- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Job Security
- ☐ Retirement security (Pension issues, Social Security, Medicare)
- ☐ Taxes
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Child Care
- ☐ High fuel costs
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_